

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SALUTING PARTICIPANTS IN DISASTER RELIEF PLAN IN EAST DEER, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to salute all the officers who took part in implementing a disaster relief plan on January 31, 2005 in East Deer. The members of the State Department of Environmental Protection, Coast Guard, Allegheny County hazardous materials experts, along with surrounding fire companies, police, mayors, and other elected officials in the East Deer area all responded in a way to prevent the disaster from spreading to surrounding communities.

At 5:30 a.m. on January 31, a Norfolk Southern train derailed, causing a car of anhydrous hydrogen fluoride to begin leaking. Fortunately, by 6 a.m., police and firefighters began evacuating homes. Bridges in the surrounding area were closed before the morning rush hour, further isolating the leaking car. Those members who responded to the call that morning exemplify the ideals of leadership and bravery.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring these brave offices. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute those citizens who prevented a dangerous situation from escalating into a disaster, and demonstrating public service and the meaning of bravery.

ONE OF THE GREAT FIGURES IN AMERICAN SKIING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Virginia Cochran, known to generations of Vermont children as Ginny, who died last week at the age of 74.

In 1961 Ginny Cochran and husband, Mickey, created a ski slope in their backyard and opened it as Cochran's Ski Area. In its early years it was a training course for all four Cochran children, Marilyn, Bobby, Barbara Ann, and Lindy. As everyone in Vermont knows, all four proceeded to compete and win in the Olympics and on the World Cup, FIS, and U.S. national circuits.

While Mickey groomed, maintained and expanded the course, Ginny began an after-school skiing program, which taught generations of Vermont schoolchildren, and countless other families to ski. The 10,000 children who learned to ski at Cochran's all remember with deep fondness the kind, energetic, and passionate woman who taught them.

Ginny's method of teaching was revolutionary. She taught parents to teach their own children to ski. Of course, for every child who was frightened of going down the small instructional hill, for every child who needed help in learning to go up the Mighty Mite ski lift, Ginny was there with advice and support. She encouraged children to extend themselves, to compete not so much against others as with themselves, and to be more than they thought they could be. Every week of the ski season saw Lollipop races at Cochran's, where skiers as young as four and five years of age would compete against Olympic gold medalist Barbara Ann and her mother, Ginny, and World Cup winners Bobby and Marilyn and Lindy.

Today it is no surprise that skiers who learned to ski at Cochran's compete on the U.S. national team, including Ginny's grandson Jimmy, the U.S. National slalom and GS champion, and her granddaughter Jessica, with both silver and bronze in the National championships, have won collegiate championships, like grandson Roger Brown, slalom, and ski for major college ski teams such as Dartmouth, Middlebury and UVM.

More important than such successes, however, are the generations of young people who learned that hard work brings many rewards, including loving what you work at and a maturity which has been shaped by self-discipline as well as joy. Ginny Cochran and her husband, Mickey, knew the importance of combining hard work with pleasure, and taught it to their children and many others. Over the course of decades, with great commitment, Ginny not only taught children to ski, but to take their lives as seriously as she taught them to take skiing. It is a tribute to her as role model that her children, Barbara Ann and Lindy at Cochran's, and Marilyn at Hanover, NH, High School and the Quechee Ski Club, continue the legacy of their mother in teaching young people to ski, and through the lessons learned in skiing, they will reach a rich and fulfilling adulthood. Today, many of her former students are coaches and teachers of skiing.

I know that Cochran's Ski Area, with its Mighty Mite lift and its fast but clearly anachronistic rope tow, will never compete in vertical feet with our State's large ski areas. But Ginny Cochran's work in hewing a ski area out of a forested mountainside in Richmond, Vermont, is not an anachronism: Through the work and commitment and vision she put into it, it remains one of our great Vermont institutions. More importantly, the lives she touched and shaped are part of her enduring legacy to the State of Vermont.

IN HONOR OF MR. MANUEL SANTANA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Manuel Santana, a devoted member of

our community. Mr. Santana was born and raised in Los Angeles. Though he is a favorite local artist and restaurateur, Mr. Santana focused academically on education, psychology and sociology, receiving a degree from Los Angeles State College in 1950.

In 1952, Mr. Santana was recognized as a burgeoning young artist and offered a scholarship to Otis Art Institute. At the Institute, Mr. Santana studied painting and composition with such noteworthy artists as Martin Lubner, Morton Dimonstein and Arnold Mesches.

Since that time, Mr. Santana has been dedicated to the Santa Cruz community, a commitment that has lasted for over 40 years. Mr. Santana's community service includes founding the Martin Luther King Committee, receiving an award as a UCSC Fellow for Merrill College, directing numerous civic organizations, and serving several terms as President of the Cabrillo Music Festival. Mr. Santana's dedication to the arts and our community has enhanced our cultural and artistic intellect and we are most appreciative for his involvement.

In addition to Mr. Santana's dedication to the arts, his profound knowledge of delicious Mexican cuisine is legendary in the 17th District. Mr. Santana owned and operated two Mexican restaurants, both renowned for their menu and atmosphere. Manuel's Mexican Restaurant in Aptos is celebrating its 40th year of operation, a testament to its reputation as a local favorite. Also owned and operated by Mr. Santana is his beautiful and magical Jardines de San Juan located in historic San Juan Bautista.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Mr. Santana for his ceaseless support of the arts and community. It truly is an honor to speak on his behalf and I wish him and the Santana family all the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID J. SALIE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, SFC David J. Salie, 34, of Columbus, Georgia, died on February 14, 2005, in Iraq. Sergeant Salie was assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, based at Fort Benning, Georgia, and according to initial reports died when his military vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. He is survived by his wife Deanna; his mother Patricia H. Miers of Phenix City, Alabama; his father Jim Salie of Box Springs, Georgia; and many other family members including his children.

David Salie was eager to serve his country, Mr. Speaker. He served almost 17 years in the Army, including combat tours in the Persian Gulf, Panama and Haiti, and like every other soldier he dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Sergeant Salie died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule. He was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL TRUCK EQUIPMENT ASSOCIATION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fine organization in my congressional district, the National Truck Equipment Association, NTEA, which is the leading association supporting the commercial truck and transportation equipment industry.

Established in 1964, the NTEA supports the \$86 billion commercial truck and transportation equipment industry. The Association currently represents nearly 1,600 companies that manufacture, distribute, install, sell and repair commercial trucks, truck bodies, truck equipment, trailers and accessories.

The multi-service work trucks produced by NTEA member companies are vitally important to our Nation's economic system and our day-to-day living. Almost all delivery, utility, repair, maintenance, disposal/recycling and emergency services, as well as the construction and agricultural industries, utilize commercial vehicles. These versatile vehicles enable us to deliver goods, construct and repair roads, homes and buildings, transport people, provide emergency fire, medical and rescue services, install and repair utilities, collect trash for disposal and recycling, control snow and ice, and operate farms, among many other services.

At the heart of today's commercial truck and transportation equipment industry are an estimated 4,000 small businesses, many of them family-owned, about 2,000 of which operate as distributorships. In aggregate, the work truck and equipment industry has annual sales of more than \$90 billion and employs more than 75,000 people.

This week, NTEA will host its 41st Annual National Truck Equipment Association Convention and Work Truck Show, one of the largest trade events in the United States. The show, which represents the largest gathering of work trucks and equipment in North America, will bring together manufacturers, distributors, fleet managers, leasing companies, dealers, buyers and users of work trucks in all industries in an environment designed to deliver the newest products, encourage peer interaction and enhance professional development.

In honor of this 41st Annual Convention, I want to commend NTEA and its member companies for their significant contributions to the country. I look forward to working together with NTEA to build upon its achievements to make the association even stronger for the future.

HONORING BERKELEY VICE MAYOR MAUELLE SHIREK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of an extraordinary woman and one of my political heroes, Berkeley Vice Mayor Maudelle Shirek. In the nearly four decades Maudelle has spent as an activist, community leader, and elected official in the East Bay, she has exemplified not only what it means to be a true public servant, but through her efforts as a leader and a mentor has inspired countless members of younger generations to become involved in politics and to actively work for positive change within their communities and beyond.

A granddaughter of slaves, Maudelle came to the Bay Area over 60 years ago from Jefferson, Arkansas. Before long she became an activist for fair housing and civil rights for African Americans as well as other disenfranchised populations. She later went on to become an office manager and labor organizer at the Co-Op Credit Union, helping many people get loans to buy their first homes, pay for education or start small businesses, making it possible for many families and individuals in the 9th District to achieve financial stability.

Following her service at the Credit Union, Maudelle went on to found two senior centers. When she worked for the City of Berkeley as Director of the West Berkeley Senior Center, she simultaneously served on the State Executive Board of Service Employees International Union, Local 535, and initiated the first municipal Labor Commission in California. She also founded the New Light Senior Center in 1976, which she still actively oversees. Active in politics throughout this time, she mentored and encouraged others to become active as well. She convinced me, as well as my predecessor in the 9th District, Congressman Ronald Dellums, that to become truly effective in the fight for lasting change, we must become active and directly engaged in politics in our communities.

After decades of service to her community, Maudelle herself became a candidate for public office, and was elected to the Berkeley City Council in District 3 in 1984. Maudelle was the first Berkeley City Councilmember, and one of the first elected officials in the state, to take action against the AIDS pandemic by spearheading efforts to provide educational materials, needle-exchange programs, and housing for AIDS patients. When the county hospital tried to close its facilities serving AIDS patients, she chained herself to the doors to call attention to the plight of AIDS victims. As a result of her efforts, that facility remains open today. Throughout her tenure on the City Council, her dedication to her constituents and commitment to bettering the lives of those in her community earned her the unwavering support of residents within her district, and resulted in seven reelections as well as her election as the Vice Mayor of Berkeley.

Maudelle recently completed her eighth and final term on the Berkeley City Council, but her devotion to her community remains steadfast. At the New Light Senior Center, she continues to work to promote healthy eating hab-

its and lifestyles for all residents, and still does all the shopping for lunches at the Center every Tuesday. She continues to be a role model and a tireless worker for civil and human rights, peace, and justice and persists in the fight to reorder our national priorities. She is a mentor, a friend, and a woman who I look to for advice and care.

On Saturday, February 26, 2005, Vice Mayor Maudelle Shirek will be honored in Berkeley, California for her extraordinary life and accomplishments. Though we recognize and honor the truly incomparable contributions Maudelle has made to our community, we have barely begun to realize the true profundity of her social and political legacy. Maudelle's uncompromising fidelity to her ideals and compassion for people will never cease to be a source of hope, purpose, and conviction for those seeking to continue her work for peace, equality, and justice. Maudelle's vision for a better and more peaceful world is one that transcends time and place, and the lasting effects of the work inspired by that vision will shape the lives of countless individuals for generations to come. On this very special day, I salute, congratulate, and thank Maudelle Shirek for what she has given her community, our country, and the entire world.

TRIBUTE TO ANNIE SELLERS AS SHE CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family and friends who have gathered to celebrate the 100th birthday of one of our community's most outstanding citizens and my dear friend, Annie Sellers. Since she came to New Haven in 1958, Annie has been an active member of the community—especially with our senior citizens.

Our communities would not be the same without the efforts of those who volunteer their time and energies to make a difference. Advocate, champion, and friend—Annie has always been there to assist those in need. I have been fortunate enough to know Annie for many years and have always been proud to work with her. Her friendship, to both myself and my mother, has meant more to us than words could ever express.

As the founder and director of the Farnum Senior Center, Annie's contributions to the New Haven community have been invaluable. Our seniors face so many challenges which is why organizations like the Farnum Senior Center are so important. Annie recognized this need within her own community and created a place where the seniors of Farnum Courts could gather together—a place where they could discuss issues of importance to them, receive information on the programs and services that are available to them, and where they would always find an advocate ready to meet their needs. It is because of people like Annie—true leaders—that the voices of our seniors never go unheard.

In addition to her work within the Farnum Courts community, Annie has also been an

active member of the National Council of Senior Citizens, the National Association of Mature People, and the National Tenants Organization. A member of the Faith Missionary Baptist Church in West Haven for nearly fifty years, she has held various leadership positions within the congregation as well. All of this, and Annie still found the time to raise twelve children of her own and act as a foster mother to numerous other children. Through her compassion, love, and generosity, Annie has quietly touched the lives of many and left an indelible mark on our community.

Through all of her good work, Annie brings a very special gift to our community—that of hope and inspiration. That is why I am proud to stand today to join her twelve children; thirty grandchildren, fifty-nine great-grandchildren; and thirty-five great-great-grandchildren; family, friends, and the New Haven community in marking this remarkable milestone—the 100th birthday of Annie Sellers. Marking a century of life, this very special occasion reflects her extraordinary resilience and strength of spirit. She is a true community treasure—Happy Birthday, Annie!

CONGRATULATING OFFICERS AND
MEMBERS OF EMSWORTH BOROUGH
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the officers and members of the Emsworth Borough Volunteer Fire Department on the occasion of the Department's 100th Anniversary. The members of the Fire Department have unselfishly served the citizens of Emsworth for the greater part of the past century and now look forward to continuing their brave service in the 21st century.

The community of Emsworth cites the Volunteer Fire Department as "an organization that has become the backbone of the community." From its inception in 1905, the department has served as a valuable resource to the community. In 1995, the department expanded into providing service for Glenfield Borough, proving that its commitment to service includes not only its citizens, but its local neighbors as well.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Volunteer Fire Department of Emsworth. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute citizens such as the Emsworth Volunteer Firefighters who truly embody the spirit of public service and the meaning of bravery.

A VERMONT FILMMAKER OF NOTE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to inform this body that Eugene

Jarecki, a filmmaker in Waitsfield, Vermont, has been awarded the Grand Jury Prize at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival. Mr. Jarecki won this prestigious award for his documentary, *Why We Fight*.

Mr. Jarecki provides a balanced view of what President Eisenhower warned was a danger to democracy: the "military-industrial complex." He interviews, for instance, supporters of the current war in Iraq such as Weekly Standard editor William Kristol and Richard Perle, Chairman of the Defense Policy Board; he also interviews those who warn of dangers which may emerge from the prosecution of that war, talking with Senator JOHN MCCAIN, news anchor Dan Rather, and USAF Lt. Col. (Ret.) Karen Kwiatkowski.

Sundance describes his film succinctly and accurately: "*Why We Fight* is an inside look at the anatomy of the American war machine, examining how a force so potentially counter to the balance of a democratic society influences American life. Amid the upheaval of the Iraq War, the film follows the personal stories of a group of characters in America's military family.

"Why does America fight? Time and again, why does she seem inclined toward war against an ever changing array of enemies? What are the forces—economic, political, ideological—that shape and propel American militarism? Where do they meet? And what role does the individual play?"

Writing in the New York Times this week in honor of the recently deceased Arthur Miller, fellow playwright (and Vermont resident) David Mamet wrote, "Bad drama reinforces our prejudices. It informs us of what we knew when we came into the theater. Good drama survives because it appeals not to the fashion of the moment, but to the problems both universal and eternal, as they are insoluble." Eugene Jarecki makes good films.

The balance in his film, along with the craft and care with which it was made, propelled Jarecki's work to its Sundance Award. As Vermont filmmaker Jay Craven noted, Jarecki's "film emerged as a top Sundance hit precisely because it articulates a view that goes far beyond the seasonal politics of elections to pose larger and enduring questions."

In this era when too often political "spin" substitutes for reasoned analysis and the study of history, Eugene Jarecki has shown us that the media have a vital role to play in educating us about our political and economic past, and about our future. Vermont is as proud of him as the judges at Sundance were; and we are happy that he is once again en route to sharing his cinematic work with the entire nation.

IN HONOR OF MR. GARY GARMANN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gary Garmann, a local architect that brought the beauty of form to the 17th District. Mr. Garmann passed away on January 24, 2005 at age 62. He is survived by his loving wife, Robin, his son, Rees; daughter Jodi; his parents Dorothy and Fritz Garmann,

of Silverdale, Washington and his brother Ken Garmann of Yelm, Washington.

Gary came to Santa Cruz in 1977, with a goal to expand his professional goals, and he made his presence known ever since. He helped rebuild the downtown region of Santa Cruz after the devastating Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, by designing such buildings as LuLu Carpenter's and the Borders building downtown. These beautiful buildings now stand as local landmarks, and a testament to Mr. Garmann's talent as an architect.

Mr. Garmann's generosity and commitment to the community extended far beyond his ability to design beautiful architecture. He also selflessly donated his time to the Kuumbwa Jazz Center, where he sat on the board, as well as the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History. Mr. Garmann additionally assisted in the planning of the Santa Cruz homeless shelter, giving his time and energy to those most deeply in need.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to Mr. Garmann's family by celebrating his life and his contribution to society. His beautiful buildings, his generous spirit and his love for others, will stand as a testament to his character long into the future. Mr. Garmann is admired by all for his dedication both to his business and the community and he will be greatly missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JESSE
POOR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Jesse Poor. Recently Mr. Poor retired as deputy commander of the Anniston Army Depot after 32 years of service. His record speaks for itself, and he is known throughout the community and in the Army for having done an outstanding job throughout his career.

Mr. Poor started at the Anniston Army Depot in 1972 as a trash collector. From those humble beginnings Mr. Poor advanced from factory worker all the way to the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University where he earned his master's degree. He later returned to the Depot to apply his experience and eventually rose to deputy commander.

During Mr. Poor's tenure the Depot exceeded its financial goals and increased its workload. He supported forward-thinking public-private partnerships, and in part because of his leadership the facility has distinguished itself within the Department of Defense as one of the most efficient of its kind.

The entire Calhoun County community owes Jesse Poor a deep sense of gratitude for his service, and I am honored to be able to recognize his achievements in the House today. Our community will remember his service for years to come.

CONGRATULATING OFFICERS AND
MEMBERS OF NORTH HAMPTON
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the officers and members of the North Hampton Volunteer Fire Department on the occasion of the Department's 50th Anniversary. The members of the Fire Department have unselfishly served the citizens of Hampton for half a century and now look forward to continuing their brave service in the 21st century.

The members of the North Hampton Volunteer Fire Department plan to celebrate their 50th anniversary with a dinner and dance event on Saturday, March 12, 2005 with cocktails beginning at 6:00, and dinner at 7:00 at the Hampton Banquet Hall.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Volunteer Fire Department of North Hampton. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute citizens such as the North Hampton Volunteer Firefighters who truly embody the spirit of public service and the meaning of bravery.

VERMONT'S GREAT JAZZ MASTER

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, Vermont's great jazz saxophonist, Big Joe Burrell, died on February 2 at the age of 80. He was born and spent his early years in Port Huron Michigan. The story of his start in music is legendary. Here is how Brent Hallenbeck recounted it in the Burlington Free Press:

As a shy 10-year-old, he approached his mother's boss and asked to borrow \$5 so he could buy a saxophone.

"Saxophone?" the man asked. "What are you going to do with a saxophone?"

"I'm going to play it," little Joe Burrell told him. And he did, mastering his instrument in the next few years. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War Two, his musical career took off. At an Akron dance he played the opening act for a B.B. King performance, and King thereafter asked Big Joe to play saxophone in his orchestra. He would go on to tour with King for almost two years before meeting up with another major figure in American music, Count Basie.

Basie invited Big Joe to play in his club in New York and would become the major musical influence in Big Joe's life. "Count Basie was the predominant influence on me until the day he died, and still is today," Burrell said in 2002.

Ten years of playing in Canada eventually brought him to Montreal, from where it was an easy journey to play a date in Burlington, Vermont. There he discovered his nephew, Leon Burrell, was a professor of education at the University of Vermont. The meeting was doubly fortuitous: Leon invited Big Joe to live with him, and he made Leon's home his own for many years. And Vermont gained its most well-known, most-well-beloved jazz musician.

Big Joe jammed with fellow musician Paul Asbell, and out of their collaboration was formed an ensemble called The Unknown Blues Band. The core of The Unknown Blues Band included Asbell, Chuck Eller on keyboard, Tony Markellis on bass, and Russ Lawson on drums, and of course, Big Joe. Not only did they make music, but they shaped a whole new generation of musicians. Big Joe, who played with BB King and Count Basie, Etta James and Little Richard, was a formative influence on Trey Anastasio, the guitarist for Phish. In fact, Burrell played guest appearances with Anastasio's band in recent years.

Last year, the Unknown Blues Band celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. The band was a Burlington staple, playing at gigs everywhere and most especially at a weekly performance at Halvorson's Upstreet Café in Burlington. Even as age seemed outwardly to slow him down, Big Joe kept performing at his customary high level. Café owner Tim Halvorson told the Free Press, "He'd shuffle in with his walker or a cane, but, boy, as soon as the music started and he got a glass of Canadian Club and he grabbed his saxophone, he was 30 years younger." As his nephew Dr. Leon Burrell said, speaking of his last performance just a month ago, "He went out doing what he did best. It's like a cowboy dying with his boots on."

Big Joe was a big man—not only in physical stature, but big in heart. He loved music, he loved people, and he loved playing in Vermont. Vermont loved him back. He was an emblem of the amazing power of jazz, our nation's preeminent form of music. He showed all who lived in the Green Mountain State how jazz can speak to each of us, directly, deeply; he showed us that the music born in the South and in the big cities of the Mid-west has flowed, like a mighty river, all through our nation. He was an important tributary of that river, and all of us in Vermont who love music will remember Big Joe for that, and for the wonderful performances he gave us, time and again.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. GEORGE
HAMILTON

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary businessman and exceptional American, George Hamilton, President of Dow Automotive and recently named one of the most powerful African Americans in corporate America.

Since 1988, Black Enterprise has published a list of the most powerful African Americans in corporate America. This year, Mr. Hamilton has been chosen by the magazine for this honor. The list is compiled from the 1,000 largest publicly traded companies and leading international corporations located in the United States. This year Mr. Hamilton is among 75 African Americans honored from 62 companies and twelve industries.

Mr. Hamilton joined the Dow Chemical Company in 1977 as a seller of plastics in the automobile industry. Since coming to the company, Mr. Hamilton has held a number of positions in sales, marketing, development and business operations. Prior to joining Dow Automotive in 2000 he served as North American Commercial Director for Engineering Plastics for the Dow Chemical Company.

While holding his position at Dow Automotive, Mr. Hamilton is also active within many engineering and automotive Boards. He is a proud member of the Society of Automotive Engineers and the Society of Plastics Engineers. Mr. Hamilton also sits on his company's Global Commercial Leadership Network, Corporate Contributions Committee as well as the CEO Council on Diversity.

This is a significant honor for Mr. Hamilton and I wish to congratulate him on his accomplishments and recognition as one of the 75 most powerful African Americans in corporate America.

HONORING SENATOR JOHN
VASCONCELLOS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work of California State Senator John Vasconcellos. In the nearly four decades Senator Vasconcellos has served in the California State Legislature, he has worked tirelessly to promote policies which emphasize education and peace, both in government and in local communities.

Senator Vasconcellos was born in San Jose, California, in 1932. He was the eldest of three children born to a Portuguese father and a German mother. Notably, he became the only student in the history of Santa Clara University to serve as Student Body President, to be the Valedictorian of his class, and to win the Nobili Medal, which is awarded to the most outstanding graduate. After completing his undergraduate studies, Senator Vasconcellos served two years as a lieutenant in the United States Army before returning to Santa Clara University to enroll in law school.

In 1966, Senator Vasconcellos was elected to represent California's 13th district in the State Assembly, a position he would hold for 30 years. During that time, he served on many of the state's most important committees, including the Committee on Ways and Means, the Assembly Education Committee, and the Select Committee on Ethics. During his time as a State Assemblymember, he also spearheaded some of the most important and socially consequential legislation of his time. He was responsible for the creation not only of the first campus childcare program in the nation, but has been a steadfast supporter of student financial aid throughout his career. His commitment to education is demonstrated not only by his creation of the Cal Grant Program 25 years ago, which now serves over 60,000 students each year, but also by his advocacy of the personal and academic development of all children, as evidenced by his creation of the California Task Force to Promote Self Esteem and Personal & Social Responsibility.

After terming out of the California State Assembly in 1996, he was able to run for the open State Senate seat in his district and won. He continued to tirelessly serve the public and the cause of quality children's education in this capacity until his retirement in 2004. Though he no longer holds public office, Senator Vasconcellos continues to work for the improvement and accessibility of education, and has worked to establish a scholarship fund as

well as a program for students pursuing careers in early education, and another program aimed at building a network of leaders and activists who focus on education reform, children's issues, health, and ageing.

On Saturday, February 19, 2005, Senator Vasconcellos will be honored in Berkeley, California for these extraordinary accomplishments. Through his commitment to improving education and increasing opportunity for all children, he has not only touched countless lives, but exemplifies the true spirit of public service. I am honored to call him "my friend." On this important occasion, I salute and congratulate Senator Vasconcellos for his invaluable contributions the State of California, our country, and the world.

HONORING CHRISTY CARLSON ROMANO AS SHE IS RECOGNIZED AS A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join Speaker James Amann of the Connecticut House of Representatives and Mayor James Richetelli of Milford, Connecticut as they recognize one of the Milford community's brightest stars—Christy Carlson Romano. A literal star of both stage and screen, Christy is a Milford native who has not only shown that talent and hard work can bring great fame and success, but more importantly, how one can use their celebrity to positively impact the lives of others.

Christy is perhaps best known for her current roles on the Disney Channel's "Even Stevens" and for lending her voice to the animated series "Kim Possible." Acting since she was six years old, at only twenty, Christy has developed an extensive background in both theater and screen acting. Her dedication to her craft has given this remarkable young woman a highly respected reputation—especially among her young fans.

However, it is not just her fame that makes Christy such a tremendous role model for young people. Her commitment to her education is a real source of inspiration. This is even more evident when you consider that she has spent the majority of her life balancing both a career and a rigorous academic course load. At twelve she was on the daïs of "The Presidents Summit for America's Future" where she met three former U.S. Presidents and as a high school junior she participated in the National Leadership Conference. Today she is a sophomore at Columbia University's Barnard College majoring in Political Science and has already completed a congressional internship with Senator DODD.

In addition to her challenging schedule with her career and studies, Christy still finds time to be active with numerous charitable organizations. The Will Rogers Foundation, the Make a Wish Foundation, the Connecticut Leukemia Society, and the Child Safety Network are just a handful of the groups with which Christy has and continues to be involved. Her good work has certainly touched the lives of many.

Too often, the extraordinary contributions of young people are overlooked. Christy is a

shining example of the tremendous impact young people can have on their communities and the lives of others. That is why it is fitting that Christy is honored with the first "Connecticut's Finest Award" and that today will be proclaimed "Christy Carlson Romano Day" in Milford.

Through Christy's extraordinary contributions both on-screen and off, she has become a true role model for young people everywhere. I am pleased to stand today to join her parents, Sharon and Anthony, her sisters Marcella and Jennifer, her brother Anthony, Jr., Speaker Amann, Mayor Richetelli, family, friends, and fans in recognizing Christy Carlson Romano for her outstanding professional and personal achievements. She is truly one of Connecticut's finest.

CONGRATULATING BEAVER VALLEY BRANCH OF AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ON 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Beaver Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women on its 75th Anniversary, and recognize the exemplary performance of service that the organization provides the 4th District of Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1930 by seventeen women at Geneva College, the Beaver Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women has worked to promote equality for all women. They have tirelessly advocated for lifelong education and positive social change, and have met on the first Thursday of every month since 1930.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Beaver Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the service of organizations like the Beaver Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women that personify civic pride and make the communities that they live in truly special.

TRIBUTE TO BABETTE WISE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend one of my constituents, Babette Wise, on her dedication to substance abuse treatment and prevention in the Washington, DC, area for nearly a quarter of a century.

As a licensed therapist and director of Georgetown University Hospital's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Clinic, Wise has worked with individuals, families, and communities struggling with addiction to alcohol and other drugs. She has helped many people throughout the Washington region transform their lives by providing quality treatment and education.

Her treatment philosophy is based on the acknowledgement that addiction is a disease and that abstinence is the best way to manage the condition. Wise treats her patients with respect and provides a safe place for them to heal.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Addiction, Treatment and Recovery, I have gained a greater awareness and respect for the problems associated with addiction, and I am working to promote solutions to these problems. I believe that information, education, and awareness about chemical addiction, as well as access to treatment are the keys to combating this horrific disease.

I applaud Babette Wise and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

INTRODUCING BILL TO PROHIBIT ANY REMITTANCE OF U.S. VOLUNTARY AND ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS IF THE UNITED NATIONS IMPOSES ANY TAX OR FEE ON ANY UNITED STATES PERSON OR CONTINUES TO DEVELOP OR PROMOTE PROPOSALS FOR SUCH A TAX OR FEE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to prohibit any remittance of U.S. voluntary and assessed contributions to the United Nations if the United Nations imposes any tax or fee on any United States person or continues to develop or promote proposals for such a tax or fee.

The United Nations has for decades been looking for a way to develop and promote a system of direct taxation on American citizens. It is bad enough that the United States has wasted more than \$30 billion thus far on this corrupt and inept organization. U.N. bureaucrats want to find a way to put their hands directly in the taxpayer's pocket and do away with the U.S. Government middle man.

A current example of this determination to tax American citizens is the Law of the Sea Treaty. The "International Seabed Authority" created by the Law of the Sea Treaty would have the authority to—for the first time in history—impose taxes on American businesses and citizens. This treaty may be ratified at any time by the U.S. Senate and U.N. taxation of Americans will become a reality.

This is just one of many examples of the United Nations attempting to impose direct taxes on the American people. If we are to retain our sovereignty and our way of life we must reject completely any such attempt. Our forefathers rebelled against English rule over the issue of "taxation without representation is tyranny." It makes no sense at all more than 230 years later to subject ourselves to such a tyrannical arrangement.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation.

“RAILROAD MAN” RETIRES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and wish well in retirement Warren Weber, of Sacramento, CA. Mr. Weber served with the California Department of Transportation for over 40 years, and 8 as the Chief of Caltrans Division of Rail.

Warren graduated from California State University, Los Angeles, and pursued his master's degree in Public Administration at California State University, Sacramento. He began his career in the Urban Planning Department, at the Division of Highways. He moved through the ranks at the California Department of Transportation and served as a Supervising Transportation System Analyst, Chief of Rail Planning and Corridor Studies, Assistant Director of Legislative and local government affairs, and finally Chief of the Division of Rail.

Throughout the years Warren was responsible for various activities. He developed the State Rail Plan coordinating his efforts with various public and private organizations.

MARY DOLLISON—A MOTIVATING PERSONALITY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Mary Dollison, of Muncie, Indiana, sees people's needs and selflessly works to help them. Yet her generosity does not stop there. Mary motivates others to do the same. In this way, she continues to dramatically improve children's lives, and as a result, transform the entire Muncie community. The Muncie Star Press newspaper publicly recognized her outstanding community service on December 31, 2004, when they declared her the “Person of the Year” for her work with Motivate Our Minds (MOM).

What began in 1987 as a group of 20 children in her living room has grown into a program of 350 to 400 students who meet for after-school activities in MOM's permanent facility in downtown Muncie. Starting MOMs and shepherding it to its present form was not always easy, though. Over the years, Mary dealt with major budget shortfalls, the lack of a permanent building, and numerous other potential roadblocks that would have caused other people to give up.

Fortunately, Mary persisted, and succeeded. MOMs secretary Lenella Maxwell says of her, “She is just a very giving and loving person. She has a heart for children. She loves God very much, and her family is important to her. She has a very contagious smile. It's just like magic watching when she works with children. She can bring out the best in them. She has a heart of gold, and she wants to just help people.”

Mary recently told the Muncie Star Press, “I'm not happy not working with kids. My reward is just hearing young people or children come back and tell me stories that I've made a difference in their lives. The goal is still the same, help improve the lives of people, and I

think education is one of the ways that we can help do that.”

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mary Dollison for her tireless service to the Muncie community. She truly makes the community, and the world, a better place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, February 17, 2005, I was unable to vote on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 91, Honoring the life and legacy of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri (rollcall 39). Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

AIR FORCE VACANCIES

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as the United States fights the war against terrorism, some members of the Senate have put politics above the needs of our men and women in uniform by not acting on the nominations of a number of high level Air Force positions. The Air Force continues to play a central role in winning the war on terrorism. Yet, on December 8, 2004, the Senate returned four Presidential nominations to the Air Force without action.

The nominations included two nominations for promotion to the rank of lieutenant general as commanders of Numbered Air Forces, one lieutenant general nomination to a key position in the USAF Headquarters Staff, and one nomination to the rank of general as Commander of the Air Combat Command, the largest Air Force combatant command. I call upon the Senate to immediately act on these nominees.

I also ask for unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a letter from the Air Force Association to President Bush urging leadership of the Executive and Legislative branches to resolve these issues at once. Our fighting men and women deserve no less.

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION,
Arlington, VA, January 25, 2005.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are a nation at war . . . a war against global terrorism. On December 8, 2004, the Senate returned four Presidential nominations to the United States Air Force without action. The nominations included two nominations for promotion to the rank of lieutenant general as commanders of Numbered Air Forces, one lieutenant general nomination to a key position in the USAF Headquarters Staff, and one nomination to the rank of general as Commander of the Air Combat Command, the largest Air Force combatant command. Today, the leadership of this four star command is temporarily being provided by a lieutenant general at a time when our Air Force is heavily engaged in the Global War

on Terrorism. The acting commander is scheduled to take command of a key Numbered Air Force in the Pacific, but this move has also been delayed pending Senate confirmation of the original nominee.

It is reported that the Senate Allied Services Committee has vowed to keep holding nominations of Air Force senior officers until the Pentagon cooperates more fully in regard to the recent issues surrounding the procurement of air refueling aircraft, which now average 43 years of service. These procurement activities resulted from the Air Force implementation of the refueling replacement acquisition strategy directed by the House Armed Services, House Appropriations, and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Despite the fact that the Secretary of the Air Force and the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition have tendered their resignations in order to remove the accountability argument, we still find no action on the general officer nominations. In addition, the USAF is now being led by an Acting Secretary—and on an equally serious note, the Acting Secretary wears three other critically important hats: that of the Under Secretary of the Air Force, the OSD Space Acquisition Chief, and the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office. He will soon add a fifth critical hat as he takes on the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition.

This vacuum in senior civilian and uniformed leadership has a deleterious impact on our Air Force and the morale of those who serve, and it is adversely impacting the many fine leaders who are committed to serving their nation. Leaving key positions unfilled for lengthy periods can have a significant impact on the ability of the Air Force to execute its mission. Lack of consistent senior leadership and supervision, which led to criminal prosecution, was cited recently in the case of an acquisition official who served approximately 50% of her time without confirmed appointed leaders above her.

Our Air Force faces not only the demands of today's Global War on Terrorism, but is now entering a critical period where the Military Services are engaged in the Quadrennial Defense Review, planning for the future force, and supporting the Base Realignment and Closure efforts in shaping our infrastructure. These activities will result in key decisions that will directly affect the efficiencies and effectiveness of our U.S. Military. The Air Force and its sister services must also address Presidential Budget Decision 753—a critical decision document which will have significant impact on our current and long term force structure and weapons systems effectiveness. These activities require full-time, focused leadership.

It is imperative that we move forward on nominating and confirming the required civilian and uniformed leadership of our Air Force in this especially critical time. We respectfully urge the leadership of the Executive and Legislative Branches to come together to resolve these issues without delay. The leadership requirements of our Air Force must be addressed now so that it can meet its responsibilities in addressing today's critical challenges. Our nation and those who serve it deserve no less, and our future security requires it.

Respectfully,

STEPHEN P. CONDON,
Chairman of the Board.

44 YEARS LATER, THE PEACE
CORPS CONTINUES TO FULFILL
ITS MISSION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American people are compassionate, generous and eager to help improve the lives of others less fortunate than them. Today I'm honored to recognize the Peace Corps, an organization that provides Americans with an opportunity to promote peace and friendship throughout the world.

Since 1961, over 178,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 138 countries. They offer their time and talents by serving as teachers, business advisors, information technology consultants, health and HIV/AIDS educators, and youth and agricultural workers. Their efforts are spreading hope and goodwill, and they are making a positive difference in the lives of millions of people.

In 2002, President Bush challenged Americans to contribute two years or 4,000 hours of service to their community, the Nation or the world. I am proud of the eleven volunteers from South Carolina's Second district who answered the President's call to service by joining the Peace Corps: Lindsey Bach, Amanda Bell, Catherine Chesnutt, Jennifer Emmert, Kimberly Hardee, Lydia Lester, Hedda McLendon, Rachelle Olden, Roscoe Oswald, Ashlee Painter and Kiva Wilson. Their willingness to serve is extraordinary. They follow a tradition of service established by Warner Montgomery of Columbia who was South Carolina's first Peace Corps volunteer.

I congratulate the Peace Corps on its 44th anniversary.

BILL TO NAME FEDERAL COURT-
HOUSE ANNEX AFTER JUDGE
WILLIAM B. BRYANT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this bill has an unusual origin. The Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, for himself and the members of the trial court, visited my office to request that the annex under construction for the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building be named for senior U.S. District Court Judge William B. Bryant. Judge Bryant was unaware of the desires and actions of his colleagues, who unanimously agreed to request that the annex be named for the judge. It is rare that Congress names a courthouse or an annex for a judge who has served in that court and even more rare for a judge who is still sitting. However, I am grateful that the House understood the unique importance of Judge Bryant and passed the bill last year. Unfortunately, the bill was stopped in com-

mittee in the Senate because of the reluctance to name a building for a seated judge. However, because Judge Bryant richly and uniquely deserves this honor, I have added a section declaring the effective date to be when the judge no longer holds the position. We must pursue this compromise to get the bill through the Senate. We will celebrate this remarkable historic judge and invite him to witness the honor when the bill passes.

Judge Bryant's colleagues, who know his work and his temperament best, have found a particularly appropriate way for our city and our country to celebrate the life and accomplishments of a great judge. I know Judge Bryant personally, I know his reputation in this city, and in the law profession. I know that the request to name the annex for Judge Bryant reflects deep respect for his unusually distinguished life at the bar.

Judge Bryant began his career in private practice in the segregated Washington of the 1940s and 50s, when African American lawyers were barred from membership in the District of Columbia Bar Association and from using the bar law library. He established his legal reputation as a partner in the legendary African-American law firm of Houston, Bryant and Gardner and taught at Howard University Law School. His reputation as an extraordinary trial lawyer led to his appointment as the first black assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. He rose to become the first African American to serve as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court whose members now ask that the annex be named for Judge Bryant.

Particularly for his representation of criminal defendants, Judge Bryant was admired as one of the city's best and most respected lawyers. Among his many notable cases is the landmark *Mallory v. United States*, 354 U.S. 449 (1957), where the Supreme Court ruled that an arrested person must be promptly brought before a judicial officer.

Judge Bryant graduated from D.C. public schools, Howard University and Howard Law School, where he was first in his class. After graduation, Judge Bryant served as chief research assistant to Dr. Ralph Bunche when Bunche worked with Gunnar Myrdal, the famous Swedish economist, in his studies of American racial issues. Judge Bryant served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was honorably discharged as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1947. Judge Bryant, who is 93, took senior status in 1982. He raised a family but, as Chief Judge Thomas Hogan wrote, "lost his beloved wife, Astaire and now lives alone—with this court and the law as the center of his life."

This unusual request from all the judges of the court gives our bill great credibility. I am grateful to the judges of our U.S. District Court here for their thoughtful proposal that honors a Washingtonian of historic proportions. I very much appreciate the many efforts of Senator PATRICK LEAHY to get the bill through the Senate last year and for agreeing once again to be the lead sponsor of this bill. The residents of this city, the court that Judge Bryant has served so well, and the members of the bar here join me in our hope to get the bill passed this year.

COMMEMORATING WORLD WAR II
SERVICE OF MONTFORD POINT
MARINES

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce today a resolution along with Representative CORRINE BROWN to commemorate the World War II service of the Montford Point Marines.

On May 25, 1942, the Commandant of the Marine Corps issued instructions to begin recruiting African-Americans for service in World War II. These recruits were placed in a segregated training camp; a portion of Camp Lejeune in North Carolina called Montford Point. Those segregated soldiers came to be known as the Montford Point Marines. They endured racial discrimination and harassment during their training.

The Montford Point Marines served with honor and distinction in the Pacific theater, assisting in the liberation and defense of the Ellice Islands, Eniwetok Atoll, the Marshall Islands, Kwajalein Atoll, Iwo Jima, Peleliu, the Mariana Islands, Saipan, Tinian, Guam and Okinawa.

Their courage, commitment and heroism drew commendations from fellow soldiers, officers, the Navy as a whole and journalists such as Time Magazine's correspondent Robert Sherrod, who wrote that the African-American forces deserved the Navy's highest possible combat rating.

The Montford Point Marines represent the highest standard of the Marine Corps and their sacrifice and endurance paved the way for future generations of Marines. I believe that it is time that Congress recognizes their achievements and commends their proud service in the face of racial discrimination.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, due to reasons beyond my control, I was unable to vote February 14 through February 18 of this year. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following votes.

On rollcall vote No. 32 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 33 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 34 I would have voted "no," on rollcall vote No. 35 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 36 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 37 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 38 I would have voted "no," on rollcall vote No. 39 I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING RICHARD JAMES
BUTLER ON HIS 73RD BIRTHDAY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I rise today to join the many friends of Richard James Butler in recognition of his life and the commemoration of his 73rd birthday. His many years of dedication to his family, community, and service in the United States Army and the United States Postal Service are praiseworthy.

Richard James Butler was born in Cleveland, Ohio on March 6 in of the year 1932 to Samuel Butler and Gladys Butler. The third of eight brothers and sisters, he attended and graduated from East Technical High School where he was a standout on the track team. In 1952, the year after his graduation, showing a strong sense of duty to his country, Richard enlisted in the United States Army and served in the Korean War. He was injured in the line of duty in the Battle of Pork Chop Hill in 1953. For his courage, bravery, and valor, Richard was awarded a Purple Heart.

In 1955, Richard married the object of his affection, Ruth Washington. A man of self-reliance, he undertook in architecture while still employed at the United States Postal Service. He contributed to the design and building of the homes in which he and his beloved Ruth raised their three children: Michael, Marcus, and Marla.

While an employee of the United States Postal Service, Richard was very active in the American Postal Worker's Union serving various offices, including that of Union President. He was also elected to the position of National Business Agent, representing union members in individual disputes with the Postal Service. After retiring from the Postal Service in 1990, Richard continued his work as a National Business Agent until his passing on the morning of July 5, 2002.

He was known as a strong provider, teacher, protector and friend with a smile regarded as one of the warmest. Though we will be greatly missed, his tenacious spirit and untiring love will remain an inspiration to us all.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States and citizens of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, I join in the celebration of life of Richard James Butler.

**PRODUCT SAFETY NOTIFICATION
AND RECALL EFFECTIVENESS
ACT OF 2005**

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, every year approximately 300 recalls of potentially hazardous and dangerous consumer products are conducted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Tragically, many of our constituents are never aware that a product in their home has been recalled due to safety concerns. In recent years more than 11 million potentially injurious products were on the market including baby cribs, strollers, and chil-

dren's toys. The return rate for these recalled products is less than 20 percent. That means over 8 million life-threatening products are in homes across the Nation.

The main reason the return rate is low is that manufacturers do not have a proper system in place to notify consumers when their product has a defect. This is why I am introducing the Product Safety Notification and Recall Effectiveness Act of 2005.

This legislation requires manufacturers to include a product registration card or offer on-line product registration for every juvenile product, small household appliance or other product the Consumer Product Safety Commission deems necessary. These registration cards may not include any marketing information which is often a turn-off for consumers. The only use for these cards and the on-line registration is to create a database of necessary information to contact consumers directly in the event of a product recall.

The Product Safety Notification and Recall Effectiveness Act of 2005 will help protect children and families. In 1993, the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration, NHTSA, introduced a mandatory registration card program for child safety seats similar to what this legislation proposes. A study published regarding this program, found that the registration program resulted in nine times more child safety seats being registered. An increase of 56 percent more seats were brought in for repair. These registration cards are helping to save lives.

This legislation has been endorsed by the Consumer Federation, Consumer Union and several other consumer and safety advocacy groups. They know that something needs to be done to help protect everyone from potentially hazardous items.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation. We have a responsibility to ensure that every family and every person in our congressional districts are aware of any recall to help improve their safety.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE RECENT
UNITED STATES-JAPAN JOINT
STATEMENT ON TAIWAN**

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, in the most significant alteration since 1996 to the United States-Japan Security Alliance, the United States and Japan listed in a joint statement on February 19 the peaceful resolution of the Taiwan Strait issue as a "common strategic objective."

It goes without saying that Taiwan welcomed the move; China on the other hand responded in an irate fashion.

The joint statement comes at a time when China's continued refusal to renounce the use of force against Taiwan is already highlighted by China's announcement 2 months ago that it will enact its so-called "Anti-Secession Law" in the beginning of March—a law which may be used to justify a military attack on Taiwan if Taiwan formally declares independence.

Additionally, China published a Defense Policy White Paper in which it threatened to

"crush" Taiwan if the island declares independence, and in which it states that it is the "sacred responsibility" of the PRC army to stop Taiwan from "splitting the country."

The "Taiwan Relations Act," which has regulated the United States-Taiwan relationship since 1979, specifically states that the United States decision to establish diplomatic relations with China in 1979 rests upon the expectation that the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means; and that the United States considers any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States.

This "Anti-Secession Law" is a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific, and therefore of grave concern to the United States. I believe it is crucial that we and Japan publicly oppose China's Anti-Secession Law and its Defense White Paper, for these constitute an extremely aggressive move against Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, United States policy must remain clear that nobody but the people of Taiwan has the right to determine the future of Taiwan. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding the recent joint statement by the United States and Japan, and reaffirming our continued support for the people of Taiwan.

**EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER CHI-
NA'S INTRODUCTION OF AN
ANTI-SECESSION LAW**

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in mid January China and Taiwan agreed to allow direct flights between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan during this year's Lunar New Year holidays. This agreement was considered to be a small but important step toward a peaceful, diplomatic resolution. In this vein, it is important that the United States continue to lend help to maintain the crucial balance in relations between China and Taiwan.

In December 2004, China unveiled its plan to introduce legislation that, under certain circumstances, would permit China to legally take military action against Taiwan. Chinese officials claimed the measure was defensive in nature, and that it was in response to radical pro-independence forces in Taiwan that have reached the point of no return. Critics, however, speculate the hard line Taiwanese independence movement that China laments gets much of its oxygen from China's confrontational fervor. Additionally, Beijing denied charges of unilaterally changing the status quo and underscored the measure as an "anti-secession law", as opposed to a "unification law".

Ironically, Beijing's move seems to be breeding a popular clamor within Taiwan spawning a reactionary law in retaliation. Taipei has already begun drafting an "anti-annexation" law, which will likely include an immediate declaration of formal independence and mandate a referendum on any move by China to change the status quo. This type of back-and-forth exchange has the potential to yield grim ramifications on the vision of a peaceful diplomatic resolve.

While this provision may be well intentioned, I am concerned about the adverse effects it could have on the fundamental balance of relations between Taipei and Beijing. Many Taiwanese citizens perceive this law as China using its iron fist to promote its "one country, two systems" vision. Additionally, they have voiced their concern over the unknown particulars in the measure. For instance, how will the anti-secession law define secession? Will it simply be against a formal declaration of independence? These concerns, along with gauging the necessity of such a law, have formed a deep sense of suspicion and reluctance within the Taiwanese.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to accentuate my concern over the ball of yarn this "anti-secession" law could end up unraveling. It is important for the United States to help maintain the balance in cross-strait relations and to discourage against actions that may muddy the proverbial waters. I urge my colleagues to closely examine Beijing's initiative along with the unintended implications it could pose in severely dampening the region's stability.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION
OF BOBBY LYNN CAINE—FIRST
AFRICAN AMERICAN TO GRADUATE
FROM AN INTEGRATED
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, as Black History Month comes to a close, it gives me great pleasure to honor one of America's heroes, Mr. Bobby Lynn Caine. An unassuming resident of Nashville, Tennessee, Mr. Caine was the first African American to graduate from a publicly funded, integrated high school in the South. His story is one of bravery amidst intimidation and hatred, as he persevered to get the education that he and other African Americans so rightfully deserved.

In 1956, the Supreme Court issued its final decree on the historic *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ended racial segregation in the South. Among those directly affected was a 16-year-old African-American student—Bobby Lynn Caine.

On August 27, 1956, Bobby and eleven other black students made history by desegregating Clinton High School in Tennessee—the first public high school in the South to desegregate. Being the only black student eligible that year to graduate, Bobby knew that segregationists aimed to stop him from completing his education. Faced with an angry mob of protesters and fearing for his life, Bobby and the other black students known as the "Clinton Twelve"—walked through picket lines that grew larger each day. A newspaper account said that "a milling mob of approximately 1,000 gathered at the school." Bobby and the others suffered verbal and physical abuse from the angry mobs gathered at Clinton High School. Nevertheless, with the protection of the State troopers and the National Guard, Bobby and the other black students continued their daily walk through the picket lines and protesters with renewed determination.

Bobby eventually graduated from Clinton High School on May 17, 1957, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in social work from the Tennessee State University. He also completed course work toward a master's degree. Bobby served his country in the U.S. Army and later enlisted in the Army reserve, from which he retired as Captain after 21 years of service. He now resides in Nashville with his family.

Because of his courage, Bobby helped make it possible for children today of all races and ethnic backgrounds to attend school together and to learn in a safe and peaceful environment. In honor of Black History Month and on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee, I ask you to join me in honoring Bobby Lynn Caine of Nashville, who was a pioneer in the fight to desegregate the South.

TRIBUTE TO SMSGT ROBERT F.
YOUNG, JR.

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of SMSgt Robert F. Young. Originally from Rochester, New York, Sergeant Young enlisted in the U.S. Navy through the delayed enlistment program on December 1, 1966, and was called to active duty in February 1967.

After completing basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Illinois in May, 1967, Sergeant Young was assigned to the Naval Air Station, North Island, San Diego; California, where he was assigned to Antisubmarine Squadron, VAW 110. In May 1968, Sergeant Young began technical school training as an Aviation Electronics Technician at the Naval Technical Training Center in Memphis, Tennessee. After graduation from the Naval Technical Training Center in November 1968, he was reassigned to the Naval Parachute Testing and Training Facility, Aircraft Maintenance Group, El Centro, California.

On December 30, 1969, Sergeant Young was reassigned to Early Warning Squadron, VAW 111, North Island, Naval Air Station, San Diego, California. While home on leave and prior to reporting to his new duty station, his orders were changed directing him to report to Travis Air Force Base, San Francisco no later than mid-night on January 1, 1970 for reassignment to VAW 111, Early Warning Squadron on board the aircraft carrier CVA 43, the USS *Coral Sea* in the South China Sea in support of combat operations in the Republic of Viet Nam.

On February 27, 1971, Sergeant Young was released from active duty with the U.S. Navy, and had attained the rank of Petty Officer Third Class. After finishing his college education in 1975, he took a managerial position with a large drugstore chain.

On March 29, 1978, Sergeant Young joined the 174th Fighter Wing's Communication's Flight as a traditional guardsman, and in 1979 he accepted a full time position, as an aircraft electronic technician with the 174th Fighter Wing, a position he held until 1985, when he accepted a position with the Defense Contract Management Agency, working as Quality As-

surance Representative, from which he will retire in June of 2005.

The 174th Fighter Wing was called to active duty on December 29, 1990, and deployed to Al Kharj Air Base, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD and Operation DESERT STORM on January 2, 1991. During that time Sergeant Young supported the unit from home station in Syracuse, New York during the unit's deployment. Sergeant Young has deployed with 174th Fighter Wing numerous times, to Germany in support of Cold War operational training exercises. He also deployed with the 174th Fighter Wing in support of Operation Southern Watch in March 2000 and again in August 2001, in support of United Nations contingency operations against Iraq. After the September 11th terrorist attacks, he performed active duty supporting Combat Air Patrol sorties over New York City in support of Operation Noble Eagle. On October 16, 2003, Sergeant Young volunteered for his third Air Expeditionary Force deployment this time in support of the Global War on Terrorism. While deployed to Al Udeid Air Base, Emirate of Qatar, he was attached to the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Operations Squadron, from October 17, 2003 to December 5, 2003, in support of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Young has 31 years of combined military service, 4 years of active duty with the U.S. Navy and the remainder with the New York Air National Guard. He holds an Associate of Science Degree in Accounting and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal; Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster. He holds the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" device and five oak leaf clusters; Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation; Navy Good Conduct Medal; Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, with eight oak leaf clusters. His military campaign and service awards include the National Defense Service Medal with two bronze service stars; Vietnam Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with gold combat frame; and the Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon, with six oak leaf clusters; He also holds the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hourglass device, mobilization "M" device, and numeral 4; and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

His New York State awards and decorations include the New York State Long and Faithful Service Award, with gold shield device; New York State Defense of Liberty Medal; New York State Exercise Support Ribbon, with two "E" devices.

Without question Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Young is a very special person. He willingly served his nation, exuding loyalty and pride. For his unrelenting service in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and the Air National Guard, Sergeant Young can retire knowing he has earned such a status. I would like to wish him well in his retirement years, as he will now be able to spend more free time with his wife Kristina, and two sons, Sean and Jason. Thank you Sergeant Young for all your years of hard work and dedication.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE BONNER

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Bonner for his commitment to serving his community and his country. Mr. Bonner was honored at the annual brunch for the Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade Committee, which was held on February 20, 2005.

In 1999, Mr. Bonner began his service with the United States Army Reserve. As a Sergeant, he bravely served for a year in Iraq and Kuwait. For his efforts, Mr. Bonner was honored with two Army Commendation Medals. He was awarded one medal for his training efforts while under attack and the other for his humanitarian aid.

Mr. Bonner graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in history and social studies. A member of the Bayonne County Donegal Association, he will be working at the parade as an assistant to the Grand Marshall.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring George Bonner for his community involvement and his brave service to our country.

IN HONOR OF HAROLD MCCOY RETIRING MARCH, 2005 46 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF JOPLIN

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold McCoy on the day of his retirement from 46 years of dedicated service to the City of Joplin. Harold McCoy distinguished himself in Southwest Missouri by his commitment to improving the lives of the citizens in the City of Joplin.

Harold McCoy began his career almost five decades ago as a draftsman in the Engineering Department. He quickly moved on to become the Assistant Director of Public Works and then Director, and Deputy City Manager. During this time of public service Harold McCoy was responsible for the completion of countless projects, which have greatly impacted the prosperity of the region. He expanded, maintained and developed over 430 miles of city streets. Along with other community leaders, he had the vision 36 years ago to maintain the traffic flow through the center of Joplin with the 1-49 Rangeline Bypass. As Director of Public Works, Harold built and expanded three waste water treatment facilities. He was also instrumental in the construction and development of the Joplin Airport, which is vital to the economy of Joplin and Southwest Missouri. Harold has significantly influenced the economic development of this growing district. He was instrumental in bringing businesses and financial opportunities to the City of Joplin, and in supporting the infrastructures of these companies once they arrived.

Harold McCoy's contributions throughout his tenure in public service will not be forgotten. The impact he made on the City of Joplin will continue to serve as a monument to all his hard work and sacrifices.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SPECIALIST BRIAN ROBINSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a great American, Specialist Brian Robinson. I honor him today for his heroism in the fight against our global enemies and in fighting for equitable treatment for all Army National Guardsmen.

As a former member of the Nevada Army National Guard, Spc. Robinson has shown valor and honor in combat in Iraq against the aggression of our enemies in the Global War on Terror. Since his return to the United States, overcoming near-fatal injuries and other odds, Spc. Robinson has taken an active stand to ensure that our returning Guardsmen and Reserves get their guaranteed pay and benefits.

The inspirational story of this brave man is one that deserves notice not just for his bravery in combat, but for his determination to reform inequities in services for his fellow guardsmen and soldiers. I encourage each of my colleagues to diligently work to provide, in an accurate and timely manner, pay and benefits to reserve soldiers who have been injured or have become ill fighting in the line of duty. Our troops deserve that much for the sacrifices they have made volunteering to fight to maintain the freedoms we all take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I salute Spc. Robinson for his bravery and sacrifice. I also honor him for his continued determination to find solutions to inequities in our military.

HONORING THE DEDICATION TO PUBLIC SERVICE OF FRIO COUNTY JUDGE CARLOS GARCIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the distinguished public service of Frio County Judge Carlos Garcia.

Judge Garcia was born in Pearsall, Texas, and attended Pearsall High School. He is a graduate of Durham Business College, and was self-employed until 1986.

He began his career in public service as Frio County Justice of the Peace in 1987. He has been consistently re-elected by the people of Frio County, and currently serves as the presiding officer of the Frio County Commissioners Court.

Outside of his work as a Frio County Judge, Carlos Garcia has played an important role in a wide variety of non-profit organizations. He is a member of the Brush Country Mental Health Retardation Committee, a member of the board of directors of the Community Council of South Central Texas, and Vice-Chair of the South Texas Detention Complex Development Corporation. He was one of the founding members of the IH 35 Economic and Development Coalition, and serves on the Frio-Atascosa Juvenile Board.

Judge Carlos Garcia has consistently worked to make his community stronger, both from the bench and in private life. His tireless, committed service is an example to the rest of us, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly give him my thanks.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL DONOVAN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Donovan for his extensive participation in community endeavors and demonstrated leadership. Mr. Donovan was honored at the annual brunch for the Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade Committee, which was held on February 20, 2005.

Mr. Donovan has devoted decades to community service. He is credited with helping establish the Irish-American League and served as the League's treasurer for three years. He is a member of multiple organizations, including the Knights of Columbus of Hillside, the John F. Cryan Association of South Orange, and the Morley McGovern Association of Roselle Park. In the past, he has served as Chairman of the New Jersey Irish Festival and Grand Marshall of the Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade. This year, he will be working as an assistant to the Grand Marshall.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Mr. Donovan valiantly served his country in the Navy. He was stationed on the destroyer tender USS Everglades and the destroyer USS Eugene A. Green. Now retired, Mr. Donovan used to work as an industrial photographer and an audio visual technician for the Exxon Company in Linden, New Jersey.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Michael Donovan for his strong commitment to service and his outstanding work in the community of Bayonne.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay honor to an institution that celebrates its 100th birthday this month—Southwest Missouri State University at Springfield, Missouri with campuses in West Plains and Mountain Grove. During that century, Southwest Missouri State University, or SMSU as its students and alumni know it, has left its lasting mark of service and academic achievement on the region, the state, the nation and parts of the world.

Southwest Missouri State University was founded March 17, 1905, in Springfield as Missouri State Normal School, Fourth District. With a faculty of 8, and 173 students in a single building on 38 acres of farmland, the school has evolved into the state's second largest institution of higher learning with 61 buildings and a student population of more than 20,800. The faculty has changed too. The 700-member faculty represents a diverse

group of researchers, educators, public servants and mentors in 192 fields of study and offers more than 3,300 classes each year. The school's budget exceeds \$200 million and its economic impact is an estimated \$2 million per day.

Its library, named after former President Duane Meyer, is a shining example of the growth and sophistication of SMSU. The number of books in the library has increased from 600 borrowed books in 1906 to 842,000 books, 928,000 government documents, 1,040,000 microforms, 35,000 audio-visual items, and 180,000 maps today. This year, the library will add its collection of union archives to its offerings available over the Internet.

SMSU has "opened the door of opportunity" for students who have dared to excel for the past century and distinguished themselves in academics, in research, in public service, and in co-curricular activities and sports.

In 1995, SMSU gained further distinction by adopting a statewide public affairs mission. SMSU has had a profound effect on improving the quality of life for citizens in Springfield, the region, and the state.

March 17, 2005 is "Southwest Missouri State University Founders Day." It is part of a year-long celebration of the school's 100 years of service to Missouri. It is an appropriate celebration to mark the significant contributions the institution has made to the citizens of Missouri and the nation over the past 100 years.

The future looks bright for Springfield campus. It has strong, principled leadership, a dedicated faculty that is actively involved in many communities. The school's research goals are expanding and its student body comes from nearly every county in the state.

The evolution of SMSU followed its name. In its 100 years, the institution has had four names—Missouri State Normal School, Fourth District; Southwest Missouri State Teachers College; Southwest Missouri State College; and Southwest Missouri State University—each name changed to more accurately reflect what the institution had become.

Nowhere is that more evident than in the growing ranks of its alumni that include governors, members of Congress, members of the state general assembly, countless local and municipal officials, teachers, civic leaders and business owners. I am proud to be among the 80,000 living SMSU alumni today.

This school has earned the honor of being called Missouri State University. It is a fitting new name for this institution that has provided excellence in higher education, research and public service across the state and continues to expand its service and reach into more communities. I want to wish Missouri's second largest university at Springfield another 100 years of service to, not only the region, but also the entire State of Missouri.

Go Bears!

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SERGEANT JOSEPH PEREZ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a great Amer-

ican, Sergeant Joseph Perez. I honor him today for his heroism in the fight against our global enemies and in fighting for equitable treatment for all Army National Guardsmen.

As a former member of the Nevada Army National Guard, Sgt. Perez has shown valor and honor in combat in Iraq against the aggression of our enemies in the Global War on Terror. Since his return to the United States, overcoming near-fatal injuries and other odds, Sgt. Perez has taken an active stand to ensure that our returning Guardsmen and Reserves get their guaranteed pay and benefits.

The inspirational story of this brave man is one that deserves notice not just for his bravery in combat, but for his determination to reform inequities in services for their fellow guardsmen and soldiers. I encourage each of my colleagues to diligently work to provide, in an accurate and timely manner, pay and benefits to reserve soldiers who have been injured or have become ill fighting in the line of duty. Our troops deserve that much for the sacrifices they have made volunteering to fight to maintain the freedoms we all take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I salute Sgt. Perez for his bravery and sacrifice. I also honor him for his continued determination to find solutions to inequities in our military.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HAYS COUNTY JUDGE JIM POWERS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Powers for his many initiatives and accomplishments as a judge and public servant of Hays County, Texas.

Jim Powers was sworn in as Hays County Judge in 1999 and became the first ever Republican to be elected to the seat. Since taking office, Powers has helped make Hays County one of the fastest growing counties in Texas.

Powers has been very instrumental in the growth and infrastructure development of Hays County. He was crucial in a \$47 million bond issue to improve and make safer the roads in Hays County. Powers also negotiated the Hunter Road expansion project in San Marcos, which is the second major highway project in Hays County for the last 15 years. In addition, Judge Powers was responsible for purchasing 20 acres of land surrounding the Civic Center for future expansion and development.

Powers has also supported initiatives to preserve and protect the environment. He supported the first ever bond issue in Hays County history for the preservation of parklands and open spaces.

Some of his other accomplishments include cutting taxes, decreasing the county's debt, increasing the county's credit rating, improving the water system, and making government much more efficient in Hays County.

Prior to becoming County Judge, Powers was a successful restaurateur, author, Vice President of the Dripping Springs Independent School District Educational Foundation, and an Executive Director of Family and Marriage

Resources. Powers has always adhered to the basic precept of putting people first and motivating those around him. Throughout the years, this formula has brought him success in business, politics and in his personal relationships.

Currently, Judge Powers resides in Dripping Springs with his wife Maripat Mayfield Powers and their four children. Powers is a member and Deacon of the First Baptist Church of Dripping Springs. I am honored to have this opportunity to distinguish Judge Jim Powers for his lifetime of achievement, and to thank him for his continued commitment to the betterment of our community.

IN HONOR OF KEVIN MORAN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kevin Moran for his years of leadership and community service. Mr. Moran was honored at the annual brunch for the Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade Committee, which was held on February 20, 2005.

An active member of the community, Mr. Moran has worked with many local organizations. In the past, he was the assistant coordinator of the Summer Youth Employment Program (CETA), which helped find employment for 800 disadvantaged youth. He also served as the administrator of the Lincoln School Community Education Program where he organized the After School Enrichment and Summer Day Camp programs. An advocate of parental involvement, Mr. Moran is committed to participating in activities with St. Peter's Prep, Vroom School, and Holy Family Academy.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Mr. Moran graduated from St. Peter's College with a degree in history and earned a master's degree in educational administration from Kean University. For 23 years, he worked as an educator and served on a variety of committees. He taught at Marist High School, St. Anthony's High School, and the Henry E. Harris School. Since 2000, he has served as principal of the Dr. Walter F. Robinson School.

Mr. Moran is a devoted husband and father of two children. He and his wife, Rosalie, are actively involved in Ireland's 32. He will serve as an assistant to the Grand Marshal for the 2005 parade.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kevin Moran for his extensive work with community organizations and his demonstrated commitment to serving others.

RECOGNITION FOR THE LOUISVILLE ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the recent accreditation of the Louisville Zoological Gardens by the American Association of Museums (AAM) which was awarded for the excellence of its animal, botanical and non-living collections. Accreditation

by the AAM is the highest honor a museum can receive and is a testament to the professionalism and the public service provided to my community and the nation by the Louisville Zoo.

Founded in 1969, the Louisville Zoo has made tremendous strides to become one of the nation's premier botanical and zoological facilities. To achieve its mission of educating the public about the wonders of animal and plant life and raising awareness for wildlife conservation, the zoo currently has over 1,300 animals exhibited in beautiful natural settings, including some of the rarest species found on the planet. It offers state-of-the-art animal care and award-winning exhibits that educate residents and visitors of all ages. Almost 800,000 people visit the Louisville Zoo each year.

In 1980, the Louisville Zoo obtained its first major professional recognition when it received accreditation by the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). In 2003, the AZA presented its Exhibit Award to the Louisville Zoo for outstanding commitment to conservation in the construction of its new, four-acre Gorilla Forest exhibit space which so closely replicated the natural habitats for the gorilla.

Accreditation by the American Association of Museums is a major accomplishment for the Louisville Zoo. It signifies excellence within the museum community and is recognition of the ethical and professional practices employed by the organization.

The process for accreditation is difficult and intensive. Over the period of three years, the Louisville Zoo underwent a thorough self-evaluation, a total audit of all collections, an accounting of business and operating procedures and a review of the procedures and protocols that govern the tasks of plant and animal management. After all this was done, a team of museum association peers conducted an on-site inspection.

As a result of this rigorous review process, very few museums have received this recognition. Only 750 of the Nation's 16,000 museums, or less than 5 percent, are currently accredited and the Louisville Zoo is one of only four institutions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to receive this honor.

Mr. Speaker, Louisvillians are proud of the achievements of the Louisville Zoo and appreciate the contributions it has made to our community. Recognition by the AAM confirms what Louisville residents have known all along: that the Louisville Zoo provides a first-class experience and education to students and animal lovers of all ages, and it will continue to do so for many years to come. I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all of the Louisville Zoo's staff for this most recent honor.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the efforts of the Eating Disorders Coalition and its affiliated organizations for promoting awareness regarding the need for education, prevention, and treatment of eating

disorders. They are commemorating the "National Eating Disorders Awareness Week" from February 27 to March 5th of 2005, and they have been devoted over the years to educate the community and offer help and support to our population to promote the well-being of patients with eating disorders.

Eating disorders include anorexia nervosa, bulimia, and binge eating disorder, and impact millions of Americans each year. The consequences of these disorders could be devastating to the physical and mental health of those afflicted. Although eating disorders affect mainly females, males can be affected by these disorders. We need to educate the general population to recognize the problem and teach them how to seek adequate help. Prevention should start at an early age, and the best method of prevention should be education and the promotion of healthy eating habits and self-esteem.

Please join the efforts of all those who work hard to fight these serious medical conditions, and recognize the important work that the Eating Disorders Coalition and its affiliated organizations do on a daily basis to promote the health of patients with eating disorders.

IN HONOR OF GINA AHEARN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gina Ahearn for her years of community involvement and demonstrated leadership. Ms. Ahearn was honored at the annual brunch for the Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade Committee, which was held on February 20, 2005.

A member of the Irish American League for eight years, she has held a variety of positions within the organization, including President, Vice President, Contestant Coordinator, and member of the Parade Committee. In 1999, she was named Irish Woman of the Year. An assistant to the Grand Marshall for the 2005 parade, Ms. Ahearn's community participation also includes coaching the Holy Family Cheerleading Squad. When she is not helping these various groups, she works as a substitute teacher.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Ms. Ahearn holds a degree in business from Rutgers University and a master's degree in education from Kean University. She and her husband are the proud parents of one daughter.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Gina Ahearn for her outstanding leadership and dedication to serving the Bayonne community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMERCIAL TRUCK HIGHWAY SAFETY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ACT OF 2005

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my good friend Tom Allen, I am introducing the Commercial Truck Highway Safety

Demonstration Program Act of 2005. This bill would allow Maine to increase the weight limits for trucks on interstate highways, by granting a three-year waiver of federal rules. It mandates a study process that will help demonstrate the positive safety effects of this change, and permit the waiver to be extended pending these safety determinations.

This bill is important both for public safety and economic reasons. The administration of the current 80,000 pound federal weight limit law in Maine has forced heavy tractor-trailer and tractor-semi-trailer combination vehicles, traveling into Maine from neighboring States and Canada, to divert onto small State and local roads where higher vehicle weight limits apply under Maine law.

The diversion of those vehicles onto such roads causes significant economic hardships and safety challenges for small communities located along those roads. Permitting heavy commercial vehicles to travel on Interstate System highways in Maine would enhance public safety by reducing the number of heavy vehicles that use town and city streets, and as a result, the number of dangerous interactions between those heavy vehicles and other vehicles such as school buses and private cars.

It would also reduce the net highway maintenance costs in Maine because the Interstate System highways, unlike the secondary roads of Maine, are built to accommodate heavy vehicles and are, therefore, more durable.

Finally, this bill would ensure that Maine can remain competitive in the transportation and manufacturing sectors, and that our neighbors do not pass us by in development. This change is fair, and will promote parity in transportation throughout New England.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which will enhance safety, lower maintenance costs, and promote economic development.

HONORING THE SAN LUIS OBISPO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, the oldest and largest voluntary organization in San Luis Obispo County, on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary.

Rarely has a local organization done more to improve the quality of life of an entire region than the San Luis Obispo Chamber.

When the Chamber opened in 1905, the railroad had come to town just a few years before, and San Luis was developing an economy that went beyond farming for the first time. Led by CEO Dave Garth for the last 32 years, the Chamber now boasts 1,389 members and a staff of 15.

The Chamber will celebrate its centennial with a dinner at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo on March 12, 2005. This vibrant and active organization has contributed an enormous amount to a community that I am terribly proud to represent.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS WALSH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Walsh for his years of outstanding service to his community and country. Mr. Walsh was honored at the annual brunch for the Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade Committee, which was held on February 20, 2005.

Serving as an assistant to the Grand Marshall this year, Mr. Walsh previously spent twelve years working as the publicity chairman for the parade. Since 1993, he has been the coordinator of the event. An active member of the Bayonne community, Mr. Walsh has been affiliated with numerous organizations, including the National Defense Transportation Association, the Bayonne Elks Club, and the Bayonne PAL Board of Directors.

Mr. Walsh graduated from Trenton State College with a degree in English. Later, he worked in Bayonne as a public information officer before becoming a public affairs specialist for the U.S. Navy Military Sealift Command, Atlantic, and the U.S. Army Fort Hamilton Military Community. Throughout the years, Mr. Walsh has utilized his public relations skills to assist organizations such as Hudson County Cerebral Palsy, the Hudson County Association of Retarded Citizens, and the Bayonne Friends of the Handicapped with publicity.

During his time with the Armed Forces, he received ten Outstanding Performance and Special Act Awards. For the past seven years, he has been teaching at the Police Athletic League Day Care Center where he assists students with school assignments and manages field trips and other recreational events. Mr. Walsh also helps the center by writing funding proposals and press releases. When he is not working with children, he participates in the Military Sealift Command Retirees Association.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Walsh for his strong leadership and tireless efforts to help others.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SISTERS, EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, AND PHYSICIANS OF OSF ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on March 22, 1880 the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis opened St. Joseph's Hospital in Bloomington, Illinois. Today, 125 years later, OSF St. Joseph Hospital remains open and ready to care for the sick.

From the very beginning, the Sisters faced adversity, but with the support of the community the hospital was able to endure. Even those outside the Sisters' religious community joined in caring for the sick, thus establishing a bond between the Sisters and the people of McLean County that is strong to this day.

Over the past 125 years, St. Joseph's Hospital has seen its share of changes. A new St.

Joseph's Hospital opened in March of 1968 along Veterans Parkway. Since then many additions have been made, including two new medical plazas, an advanced medicine center, new physician offices, a surgery wing, two urgent care clinics and a musculoskeletal center. In 1987, the hospital's name changed to OSF St. Joseph Medical Center. While the structure and name of St. Joseph's Hospital has changed, the desire and devotion of the Sisters, employees, volunteers and physicians to serve God's people has remained steadfast.

In its 125-year history, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center has accumulated many accomplishments and "firsts". For example, the first successful blood transfusion and Caesarean section in Central Illinois occurred at St. Joseph's in 1929. In addition, St. Joseph's Hospital was home to the first radiation treatments in Bloomington-Normal.

Today, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center cares for over 6,000 inpatients and 250,000 outpatients annually. They also welcome more than 800 babies every year. The Medical Center is now a nationally-recognized leader in the reduction of adverse drug events and surgical safety.

Again Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the many generations of Sisters, employees, volunteers and physicians of OSF St. Joseph Medical Center. For 125 years this hospital has served as a tremendous example of the good that can be done when people come together to serve their communities.

HONORING MEMBERS OF MICHIGAN DIVISION OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the members of Michigan Division of the Polish American Congress, as they celebrate the 60th anniversary of the formation of their parent organization.

The Polish American Congress represents close to 10 million Americans of Polish descent and origin. Its members are comprised of fraternal, educational, veteran, religious, cultural, social, business, political organizations and individual membership. The Polish American community prides itself on its deeply rooted commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream. They are present in every state and virtually every community in America, on various social, business and economic levels.

The Polish American Congress promotes civic, educational and cultural programs designed to further not only the knowledge of Polish history, language and culture, but to stimulate Polish American involvement and accomplishments.

The record of the Polish American Congress is a proud one. Indeed, it is as impressive as its fidelity to its historic political aims over the past 60 years. Their accomplishments, which are numerous, include: Representing the aspirations for freedom and self-determination of the Polish people at the United Nations, at international conferences, in the United States Congress, at the national conventions of the

major political parties, and before the Presidents of the United States; gaining U.S. backing for Radio Free Europe to inform the peoples of Communist-ruled Eastern Europe about what was happening in their countries and abroad, and effectively defended continued funding for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty throughout the Cold War era; contributing more than \$200 million in medical and material help to Poles, following the collapse of the Communist-run Polish economy after 1981.

Mr. Speaker, the Polish American Congress, over the past 60 years, has remained a vibrant and effective political action organization, articulating its concerns in Washington and around the country to a host of government and political leaders. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring this organization and its members. Through their dedicated efforts, 10 million Polish Americans today can feel a sense of pride in having an organization that represents their interests and aspirations.

IN HONOR OF ADAM CZUBA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Adam Czuba on being named Sir Knight of the Year by the Knights of Columbus (K of C). Mr. Czuba was recognized at the annual Knight of Honors event on February 26, 2005, in Bayonne, New Jersey.

The Sir Knight of the Year award is a special distinction given to the K of C member who has faithfully and commendably executed his role as a Fourth Degree Knight, has been most helpful in aiding the Past Faithful Navigator, and has demonstrated a thorough understanding and respect for the ideals of the Order.

Mr. Czuba became a Third Degree Knight in 1975 and has spent decades serving the Council and the Assembly. He achieved the rank of Fourth Degree Knight in 2001 and currently serves in the Color Corps. As a dedicated member of the K of C, Mr. Czuba has helped coordinate multiple events and activities for the Order, such as the flea market, bowling league, country western dances, and numerous charity events.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Mr. Czuba has worked for 22 years at the Keystone Folding Box Company. In addition to his involvement with the K of C, Mr. Czuba has served as a Cub Master for the Boy Scouts and is a member of the Hudson County Animal League.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Adam Czuba for his recognition as Knight of the Year, his dedicated work with the K of C, and his outstanding service to the community.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. NEAL and I rise today to congratulate The New England Council as they celebrate their 80th anniversary of

being a regional voice for the people of New England.

For 80 years The New England Council has been instrumental in uniting the region's business and political leaders to discuss and shape public policies and programs that advance the economic well-being of the region. As a nonprofit alliance of schools, hospitals, corporations, public agencies and other organizations throughout New England, the Council has worked diligently to promote economic growth and a high quality of life in the six-state region.

We commend your leadership in identifying challenges and opportunities and looking for regional solutions on issues including energy, workforce development, healthcare, transportation and education.

Under the leadership of Jim Brett and the Council's esteemed Board of Directors, the Council has played a significant role in both providing a forum and in advocating an agenda that addresses the issues which impact New Englanders and the regional economy.

We applaud the Council's efforts to promote the economic growth of New England and to improve the quality of life for those who live throughout the region.

We ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the 80th anniversary of The New England Council and in wishing the Council continued success as it faces the challenges and possibilities of the 21st century.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE M. RAMER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my very good friend, Bruce M. Ramer, who is receiving the Learned Hand Award at the American Jewish Committee's 25th Anniversary Dinner, March 10, 2005. Bruce is a prominent member of the legal profession, a dedicated leader in the community and a distinguished spokesman in support of human rights.

Bruce began his legal career at the prestigious entertainment law firm of Gang, Tyre, Ramer & Brown, and is currently a partner in the firm. Prior to moving to Los Angeles from New Jersey, he earned a graduate degree at Princeton University, attended Harvard University Law School and was active in the military. The National Law Journal ranks him among the 100 most influential lawyers in America, California Business Lawyer cites him as one of the 100 most powerful lawyers in California, and the Daily Journal places him in the top 100 lawyers in California. Over the many years of our friendship, I have developed enormous admiration for his work and valued his advice.

For more than 30 years, Bruce has supported the American Jewish Committee, AJC. He is the Chair of the AJC's Latino and Latin American Institute. He served as National President from 1998 to 2002, chaired the National Board of Governors, the National Executive Council, the National Board of Trustees, and AJC's Asia and Pacific Rim Institute. He also was the AJC's Western Region Chair and past President of the Los Angeles Chapter. His tireless efforts have helped make the AJC the incredible institution it has become.

Bruce has also provided leadership to many other worthwhile organizations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Pacific Council on International Policy, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, the Righteous Persons Foundation, the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games and the Alfred Herrhausen Society for International Dialogue of the Deutsche Bank. He is the Founding Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Geffen Playhouse (UCLA) in Los Angeles, and a member of the Board of Directors of Rebuild LA, LA 2000 Partnership, LA Urban League, United Way, Los Angeles Children's Museum, UCLA School of Medicine and the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles. He also served on the Economic Strategy Panel of the State of California and on the American Bar Association Special Committee on Judicial Independence. Many people, organizations, and causes have benefited from his dedication and hard work.

In addition to his professional and civic accomplishments, Bruce and his wife Madeline Smith Ramer have raised four children and are the proud grandparents of two grandsons. It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join in saluting my friend, Bruce Ramer, for his successful endeavors on behalf of humanitarian and democratic ideals, his exemplary leadership and for his impressive contributions to the field of law.

IN HONOR OF TOM SUMOWSKI

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Sumowski on receiving the Emergency Medical Technician, EMT, of the Year award by the Knights of Columbus, K of C. Mr. Sumowski was recognized at the annual Knight of Honors event on February 26, 2005, in Bayonne, New Jersey.

For 5 years, Mr. Sumowski has diligently worked at the McCabe Ambulance Service. A quality EMT, he was recently promoted to the rank of Captain. Known for his dedicated service and compassion, he has earned the respect and admiration of colleagues and friends.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Mr. Sumowski graduated from Seton Hall University and the Bergen County Law and Public Safety Institute.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tom Sumowski for his exceptional service to the people of Bayonne. As a result of his tireless work in the medical field and his commitment and enthusiasm, he continues to play a vital role in the community and has positively affected countless lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOMINICAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 2005, we celebrated the 161st anniversary of

Dominican independence and the love of liberty that unites the Dominican Republic and the United States and stands as a symbol of freedom worldwide.

The United States is a stronger and better country for the more than one million Dominicans who live here. New York City is even more culturally rich thanks to the more than 650,000 Dominicans who have settled there. I am proud that so many live in my Congressional District.

We, the United States and the Dominican Republic, give each other strength by our mutual support. Americans have always supported Dominican independence and admire the free and fair elections that have helped to make the country a model for emerging democracies. Our friendship inspires us to work towards even greater democratic and economic development.

We in the United States celebrate Dominican independence and the Dominican spirit, a spirit of liberty and courage—a spirit that values family and faith, education and service—the same spirit that has helped to shape America.

Our nations will work together because our futures are bound to one another. Geography makes us neighbors, but our shared values make us friends—a friendship built on common customs and ideals.

The fight for Dominican independence in 1844 continues to inspire us today. It shows that brave and determined people, committed to a noble cause, can do great good. That was true in the Dominican Republic just as it was true for the United States.

We have come a long way together and we shall continue our journey together with respect and understanding, with mutual support, and with customary respect. Long Live the United States and Viva La Republica Dominicana.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POST OFFICE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, one reason I came to Congress is to make the Federal government a better partner to communities. One of the simplest ways to achieve that objective does not require new rules or regulations for local or state governments, and it does not require massive outlays of our budget driving us even deeper into deficit. The simplest answer is for the Federal government to follow the same rules that all others must follow.

To this end, I am reintroducing the Post Office Community Partnership Act. This bill outlines minimum community contact procedures that the United States Postal Service must pursue for any proposed closing, consolidation, relocation, or construction of a post office. Simply put, the bill requires the Postal Service to comply with local zoning, planning, or other land use laws.

This legislation has had the bipartisan support of the majority of the House of Representatives and in past Congresses passed the Senate only to become the victim of the politics of postal reform. In recent sessions there

have been efforts at more comprehensive legislation that all include some variation of this bill as an enticement for passage. The pressure from our legislation has in fact encouraged some within the Postal Service to make significant progress. I've met with members of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service, the Postal Rate Commissioners, and the National League of Postmasters, and they have made progress. There are outstanding examples of where they have worked with the local community to make the post office an integral part of a downtown or main street.

It is time, however, to make this relationship something that every community can count on. It is time to make this relationship part of the Postal Service's regular activities. It should not be an exception, it should not require luck or extraordinary political action, and there should be no variation in the commitment to providing the finest examples of being a part of each and every community.

Last year, Congress failed on acting expeditiously to pass comprehensive postal legislation that included provisions from the Post Office Community Partnership Act. I am hopeful that this hesitation will not be repeated in the 109th Congress. Congress has the opportunity to set the tone for the Postal Service and federal government to become a full partner in the livability of our communities, leading by example so our families are safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

INTRODUCTION OF H.J. RES. 30
AMENDING THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
TO GUARANTEE A RIGHT
TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Congressman JESSE JACKSON Jr., to introduce an amendment to the US Constitution to guarantee health care as a right in this nation.

The current state of our health care system, if you want to call it a "system," is bleak. Yet, Congress and the White House continue to ignore the problems we face, or worse yet, offer ideological solutions that only exacerbate our current ills. Making changes to the tax code will do nothing to extend high-quality health care to the millions who are left outside of the system today. I am frustrated, as many Americans are, with the lack of leadership on this issue. This is why I have come back to an idea I had more than a decade ago—to force Congress to provide health care of equal high quality for all by guaranteeing this right in our Constitution.

The problems we see today are the same that have been with us for the past century. While some claim that the U.S. has the best health care system in the world, the high-tech medical technologies that are available to some in this country are out of reach to the 45 million uninsured—including eight million children—and millions more who are underinsured and cannot afford this care. Even when people do have health insurance, barebones policies with high out-of-pocket costs help force millions of families into bankruptcy each year. Access to "the best medical care

in the world" shouldn't be determined by your income tax bracket.

And for all the praise of the advanced medical technologies available in this country, high-tech does not necessarily equate to high quality. Although the U.S. spends far more than any other nation on medical care, we do not have the best health status. Studies have shown that overall Americans receive the recommended treatment only 50 percent of the time.

Inequities in our system are not only based on what people can afford or where they live. Perhaps the most disturbing finding in recent years is the disparities in access, treatment, and outcomes that exist for people of color. It is unconscionable that the quality of health care may be determined by skin color, rather than need or proven medical practice.

An individual's health is the key to their ability to achieve the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that this nation was founded on. To ensure these rights are conferred, we must be certain that everyone—regardless of their income, race, education, or job status—can access health care of equal, high quality. Today, only prisoners in the U.S. enjoy this right.

Other countries—both developed and undeveloped—recognize the importance of health care and have guaranteed the right to health care through their constitutions, including Afghanistan, the European Union, Iran, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Somali, and South Africa. Even the provisional constitution of Iraq—written in part by the current Bush Administration—guarantees health care as a right. It is shameful that the U.S., the shining example of prosperity and democracy throughout the world, still leaves so many people on their own when it comes to health care.

For more than 30 years I have served in this body as an advocate for health care for all people. Unfortunately, time and time again I have seen efforts to expand and improve access to health care squashed under the weight of special interests protecting their individual fiefdoms. I firmly believe that until all people have an equal right to high-quality health care guaranteed through the Constitution, their interests will continue to be ignored as those who profit off the existing system maintain their opposition to reform. It's time for a grassroots movement to put the interests of the people first! I look forward to working with the advocacy community to make the shared vision of quality health care for all a reality.

On a final note, I am introducing this amendment today to extend a specific right to all people, which is the purpose of such amendments. Unfortunately, this Congress is likely to consider other amendments to our Constitution that will remove rights and codify discrimination against certain groups of people. Our Nation's most sacred document must never be amended to set aside certain rights for select groups, while barring others from ever realizing these rights. I can only hope that my colleagues take their responsibility to protect equal rights for all people in our democracy as seriously as I do.

BROADCAST DECENCY
ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, on February 16, 2005, the House approved H.R. 310, the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005. It passed the House by a vote of 389 to 38 and had 67 cosponsors when it was considered by the House. Due to a failure to convey in timely fashion a co-sponsorship request from my staff to the bill's sponsor, Chairman FRED UPTON, our colleague Representative GENE TAYLOR (D-MS) was not listed as one of the cosponsors prior to the bill's passage through the House. Representative TAYLOR has been a strong supporter of the bill, and was a cosponsor of the identical legislative effort in the last Congress. I am pleased to have his ardent support for H.R. 310. And I want the RECORD to reflect his intention to be a cosponsor, as well as his early and longstanding support for the public interest in broadcasting and adequate enforcement tools for the Federal Communications Commission.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF JEMEZ
SPRINGS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Jemez Springs, New Mexico on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. The citizens of Jemez Springs celebrated its golden anniversary this past weekend with games, food and a chili cook-off in the Jemez Village Park.

I want to offer my sincere congratulations to Mayor John Garcia and all the residents of Jemez Springs on this historic occasion.

Incorporated in 1955, Jemez Springs' caring citizens, diligent community leaders, superior schools, and growing economy have made for an exceptional and unique civic life for its citizens.

Located in the Jemez River canyon, Jemez Springs is nestled amid the high, volcanically layered mesa walls of the Jemez Mountains. The Village is located along Highway 4, the Jemez Mountain Trail. This scenic route has been designated as a National Scenic Byway, an honor given to only 55 routes in the Nation, historic NM 4, and is the main downtown road. There you can find restaurants, galleries, a natural springs bathhouse and several bed and breakfast inns. Horseback tours, cross country skiing and snowshoeing trips are available.

Native Americans inhabited the area as long ago as the 14th century. These were probably the ancestors of the current residents of nearby Jemez Pueblo. The community of Jemez Springs dates from the 19th century. It was originally known as "Hot Springs" and provided services for area ranchers. Today, the community is still best known for its hot springs which are warmed by geothermal activity beneath the Jemez Mountains. The principal industries in the area are tourism and forestry.

New Mexico may have a shortage of open water, but what it lacks in shoreline it makes up in volcanoes—and hot springs. When the Spanish explorers of the 15th and 16 centuries stumbled across New Mexico's natural hot springs, they discovered the healing properties that the Native Americans had known about for centuries. The Jemez Mountains are the remnants of a volcanic peak more than 14,000 feet high and date from 14 million to about 40,000 years ago. The hot springs in Jemez Springs are a product of the relatively recent eruption of the Valles Caldera. Naturally occurring minerals in the hot springs include acid carbonate, aluminum, calcium, chloride, iron, magnesium, potassium, silicate, sodium, and sulfate.

The spectacular crimson-colored formations known as Red Rocks and the narrow and dramatic walls of the Jemez River valley as well as the surrounding public lands have helped preserve the intimate village setting of Jemez Springs. The U.S. Census in 2000 counted just 375 people in Jemez Springs; 218 women and 157 men.

Major attractions include year-round recreational opportunities in the Santa Fe National Forest, the hot springs, Jemez State Monument, and fishing the Jemez River. Fenton Lake, Bandelier National Monument, and the Valles Caldera National Preserve are also unique features in the region. The community also hosts a Fourth of July celebration and a fiesta in August.

There is a saying that you find so much red in the Jemez Valley because it is the living, beating heart of New Mexico. Indeed, Jemez is where the sky, mesas and the water meet. I am proud to represent Jemez Springs where residents and visitors alike can find both peaceful sanctuary and fun recreation.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask you and my esteemed colleagues to please join me in congratulating Jemez Springs on their five decades of success.

ON THE PASSING OF HELEN
ANTON VALANOS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, in the constantly changing world of Capitol Hill, all of us who are privileged to serve here recognize that people come and go—Members, staff, journalists, lobbyists and others.

And, if you work hard and have some luck, you can make your mark and make a difference in this great city and the life of our Nation.

Today, we mourn the loss of a truly wonderful woman who clearly did just that by establishing, along with her husband, one of Washington's enduring institutions—the Monocle restaurant. For 25 years, Helen Anton Valanos and her husband, Conrad (“Connie”), oper-

ated the Monocle, which the Washingtonian magazine recently said “remains a Hollywood East of political stars,” and “a sort of political refuge flying a white flag . . . a place where Republicans and Democrats mix over food and drink and the bad blood between political parties seems to get bottled and checked at the door.”

Mrs. Valanos passed away on January 4th in Boca Raton, Florida, where she had lived since 1985. But the memories of her—like the political lore that has been generated at the Monocle for more than four decades—will always be with us.

She was born in Anderson, Indiana, and graduated from the University of Miami before settling in Washington with Connie in 1950. She worked with her husband in their accounting firm, and then, in 1960, they opened the Monocle. As the Washingtonian recounted: “The Monocle opened with no advertising, no sign outside and all 86 seats filled for lunch.” And thus was born, in September 1960, a place to see and be seen.

Today, says John Valanos, who since 1989 has run the restaurant that his parents started, three-quarters of his customers are “people coming to the Hill to do business or to show friends or family what Washington is all about. They stop to see the photos on the wall, to experience some of the history that makes us unique. They say this is where JFK dined, where Mark Russell taped his CNN shows.”

During much of that time, as The Washington Post recently noted: “Mrs. Valanos, a stylish presence at the restaurant for 25 years, would leave her bookkeeping duties upstairs, enter the restaurant and sweep through the room, greeting customers and making sure the regulars had a momentary chat with the owner.”

The secret to the Monocle's success is not only its proximity to Capitol Hill, its great food and its unique ambience, but also the fact that Connie and Helen—and now their son John—have nurtured a politically nonpartisan establishment and worked to protect the privacy of the public figures who dined there. Personally, I remember going to the Monocle when I was still a Congressional aide in the 1960s, and still go there for dinner and political fund-raisers.

I know that I speak for literally thousands of Members and others in offering my deepest condolences to Connie, John, the Valanos' other son, George, and the entire Valanos family for their loss.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE NEVADA STATE SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th Nevada State Conference

of the Nevada State Society Daughters of the American Revolution. It is indeed an honor to salute such an extraordinary group of women committed not only to maintaining a legacy that acknowledges the undaunted efforts of our forefathers as they formed our great nation, but also to honor them for their continued patriotism and commitment to education, our veterans and historic preservation.

When we entered the 21st Century five years ago, the secure and optimistic stride of American strength and prosperity was marred by the outrageous actions of a cowardly few. The Constitutional assurances of domestic tranquility and liberty established in 1787 were seemingly knocked off-balance when our borders and our lives became the victims of foreign terrorism in 2001. Yet, even when we seemed broken by the challenge of this assault, we stood resilient. And like the patriots who fought for democracy and freedom at the infancy of this nation—like shadows of their legacy—we rose strong to proclaim the ideals that are the fabric of this great nation. Like a quilt, the patchwork picture of America—a colorfully authentic composite of her people, her struggles, her history, and her future—remains tethered together by a commitment to our country, a belief in God and the values and virtues of home.

This organization exemplifies the same spirit of patriotism and vision once held by our great forefathers. Whether through their efforts to help finance the educational dreams of diverse groups of Nevadans or the thousands of hours of service they give to our veterans, they reach back into the past to honor those who struggled for freedom and reach forward into the future to pave the way for young Americans who will face newer, broader challenges in perpetuating the vision of democracy.

Likewise, through the perpetual concern they have had for Native American people and participation in the issues that affect them, we all can take part in the appreciation of their rich history and the impact Native Americans have had on Nevada. And now, all of America will remember the Native Americans and their struggle as they gaze upon the statue of Sarah Winnemucca in the United States Capitol, a graceful symbol of a great American woman who spent her life trying to unite men and women who were divided by color and culture.

Mr. Speaker, through every facet of society, the hands of the Nevada State Society Daughters of the American Revolution leave lasting impressions. Today, I salute them for their continued work and service to Nevadans and Americans everywhere.